

UNBC Academic Success Centre

How Math is Different from Other Subjects

1. Math requires different study processes. In other courses, you learn and understand the material, but you seldom have to actually APPLY IT. In math, you have to do the problems.
2. Math is a linear learning process. What is used one day is used the next, and so forth. (In history you can learn chapter 2 and not 3 and do OK on 4. In math, you must understand the material in chapter 1 before you go onto chapter 2.)
3. Math is much like a foreign language. It must be practiced EVERY DAY, and often the VOCABULARY is unfamiliar.
4. Math in university is different from math in high school. Instead of going to class everyday, in college you go only two or three times a week. What took a year to learn in high school is now covered in only thirteen weeks.

Suggestions for Studying Math

Reasons Why People Have Math Anxiety	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People don't try to understand; they just memorize. 2. They are under-prepared; MATH IS CUMULATIVE
How to Study Math	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ATTEND CLASSES 2. Keep up – review notes after class. 3. Take good notes – put everything from board on paper. 4. Read the text – if you don't understand, get help. 5. Get a study friend. 6. Have a set time to do your homework.
How to Study for Math Exams	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Start at Day One – do homework. 2. Memorize formulas – use flashcards. 3. Rework problems that you missed on the homework.
Math is Problem Solving	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the full question. 2. Analyze and compute. 3. Given/Find/Need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --what's given? --what do I need to find? --what do I need to do? 4. Draw pictures – it can simplify the problem. 5. Check your results – do the problem another way.